

UNITY OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.*

By EDWARD ULRICH, M. D., San Jose.

IF WE should claim that unity means a oneness of opinion in the practice of medicine, or a conformity to one method of treatment, or to a sameness in the application of medical means to restore the abnormal conditions of the human body, then I feel sure that we shall never see the day when such a unity has come to bless the medical brotherhood, for things would have to happen to bring about such a condition of thought and action, which are beyond our present comprehension.

But if we mean by unity of the medical profession, the manifestation of a desire to agree to disagree on a great many points, and to allow each other free scope of individual thought, and to use and to apply to the best of our knowledge and ability, gained by a thorough medical education and experience, that is, thus to use and to apply the means we possess to cure the diseased and to alleviate human suffering, then there is a very fair possibility that even some of us gray-headed ones may live to see the day and a condition of affairs among medical men which call to our mind the words of the sweet singer of Israel when he says: "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Or to make it a little more practical so as to apply to the case in hand: How good and what a blessing it is, both to themselves and to the sick ones, that the medical men have joined hearts and hands in these endeavors to meet the responsibilities and fulfill the mission of their grand calling.

When that day has come, some wonderful changes in the hearts and minds of the practitioners of medicine will have taken place, for thereafter they will be known as physicians only, because their former names will have died, and will have been buried by common consent, and on the tombstone we shall read the following inscription: "Dead and buried, and may he never see a resurrection, for he was the cause of great contention, but over his carcass noble men, men with big hearts, men interested in the well-being of the human family, have joined hands and have become a noble brotherhood, bearing the name, *Physicians*."

A great and glorious law shall govern them in their relations to each other, and in the treatment of each other, the law of *honest, sincere* endeavor to assist one another to accomplish the end of their great calling.

I have no prophetic gifts, but tonight I wish I had, also the power to roll aside the mist hanging over the coming fifty years, so that I could see and proclaim unto you the facts of this event and to tell just how and when it is to be accomplished. But I have a right to form and express an opinion based upon my experience of the past and by my observation of present conditions and indications, and they lead me to think that the fulfillment of this event is near, and, like the morning star, rising on the horizon.

Allow me to give you a few reasons for my views.

Great changes have taken place, and that for the better, thank God, in the different medical institutions. Greater are the demands for a higher standard of scholarly attainments of medical students to matriculate. Greater efforts are made by all such institutions to more thoroughly educate and train students in the art of healing. In looking over the catalogues sent to me by the different medical institutions, I find that the courses of studies are not only far better than formerly, but that they are more of a sameness than ever before. I look at and think with reverence and appreciation of the achievement in the field of medicine and surgery wrought by the grand men of the old school, and I am glad and thankful that their knowledge, experience and writing have become the common property of all the schools of medicine of the present time.

Their works on Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Bacteriology, Sanitary Science, Diagnosis and so on, are

not only found on the shelves of every medical library and in the hands of every aggressive physician, no matter what the name of his Alma Mater may be, but they are the text-books in all the medical colleges. Thus the students of medicine are sitting today at the feet of the same masters, and their courses of study and instruction are so nearly alike that I think that I have a reason to believe that men thus trained in medical science will, after graduating from their own schools and after passing the State examination, be fully satisfied that they are well qualified to enter the medical profession and to be trusted in their confidence and in their consultations.

This will be a great stride toward unity. We often hear the expression that the Sunday-school and the young people are the seed and hope of the church, and we have a right to look to our young graduates who are well qualified for the work, before them to be the ones to come into a closer union, to have more confidence unto each other's ability simply because they know that none but those who could and did pass college and State examinations have a right to practice medicine.

Again, we find that several of the State medical societies have laid down the bars which divided and prevented men of different medical schools and practice from meeting with each other in consultation; whereas, now they will do so with anyone who is a graduate of a college of legal standing and recognized to be a well-qualified physician. If I look back ten or fifteen years I can see a wonderful difference and change in the feelings and deportment of the medical men of the present day.

The causes of their different opinions of each other's method of treatment have been rounded and many obstacles have been removed, and men known for their ability and success in their practice are even now looked upon and honored as physicians worthy of confidence.

Thus one obstacle after another will be removed; the men of the present time begin to know each other better and to meet each other with less prejudice and more confidence, while the young graduates will be free from all such and will look upon each other as well-qualified *Physicians*, and among them Unity will become the watchword.

ODOR HUMANE.*

By CHARLES ANDERSON, M. D. Santa Barbara.

IT HAS long been recognized that man, in common with his fellow-creatures, has his distinctive odors; I say odors, for it seems that each race has its own distinctive odor, which is characteristic of that particular race alone. With animals of the lower order the odor is characteristic of the particular kind of animal alone. The odor is carried by the fatty component of the perspiration, the watery portion seemingly being free of smell of any kind. This follows the rule of the vegetable kingdom, the essential oils universally carrying the odor of the particular plant, while the sap that is free of oil has no odor whatever.

Dr. Burtura Adacki, a Japanese physician, has lately published a paper on the disagreeable odor that Europeans give off. He ascribes the fact that Europeans give off disagreeable odors to the fact that they are meat eaters, and he takes the ground that Japanese and Chinese are odorless because they are vegetarians. Dr. Adacki's grounds are not well taken. (1) Because the odors of the Caucasians are not due to the food they eat; and that (2) Orientals are not odorless; and that (3) a vegetarian diet does not affect the odor of a race, but as will be shown, at least one race that subsists largely on a vegetable diet has the strongest known racial odor.

With your permission I will now refer to a few well known examples, and such that can without much trouble be verified. To those of us who have lived in the south or southwest, where there are numbers of

* Read at the banquet of the Santa Clara County Medical Society, San Jose, October, 1904.

* Read before the Santa Barbara County Medical Society, October 12, 1904.